

An induration measuring greater than or equal to 5 millimeters is considered a positive result in immunosuppressed patients. This group of patients includes any of the following: HIV-positive, radiographic signs of TB on chest x-ray, taking chronic immunosuppressants (e.g. after organ transplant or for another disease), or recent contact with another person who is infected with TB.

≥ 10 mm Induration

> (10) Tin

In high risk patients, an induration measuring greater than or equal to 10 millimeters in size is considered a positive result.

High Risk Patients

Up-arrow Risk Crone IV-drug-user

Patients with high risk of reactivation include any of the following: intravenous drug use, homelessness, immigration from a country with a high prevalence of TB, chronic illness (e.g. diabetes, kidney disease, lung disease, or malignancy), occupational or residential setting in healthcare, prison, or microbiology lab.

≥ 15 mm Induration

> F-(15)

An induration measuring greater than or equal to 15 millimeters is always considered positive regardless of risk factors. There may be evidence of blistering at the test site as well.

Considerations

Chest X-Ray

Chest X-Ray

A patient who presents with a positive tuberculosis skin test should obtain a chest x-ray to confirm the diagnosis or to rule out a false positive test result. It is important to remember that a patient with TB may have a negative chest x-ray. Confirmative diagnosis of TB is by sputum culture.